

national heroes, the veterans. This bill is a step in that direction.

It is critical that the VA facilities in our Nation are modern, best equipped, and able to give the kind of care that our veterans deserve.

This bill will help to do that by giving veterans in Georgia and the Southeast a modern, up-to-date facility.

I am very sure that keeping the United States the freest Nation in the history of the world means that we must maintain the most powerful military on Earth.

As a member of Congress my priorities regarding military issues are these:

1. Provide our troops with the best training and the best technology.

2. Provide adequate compensation and benefits.

3. Do everything I can to help promote high morale and esprit de corps.

4. Support the spouses and children of military personnel.

5. Improve medical care for our wounded warriors and our veterans.

6. Keep the commitments made to our veterans regarding benefits.

I want to take just a moment of your time to provide you with an update on what I have done since I won the Special Election and was sworn into office last July:

1. Co-sponsored H.R. 3793 Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act of 2007 requiring the secretary of Defense to continue to pay to a member of the armed forces who is retired or separated from the armed forces due to a combat-related injury certain bonuses that the member was entitled to before the retirement or separation and would continue to be entitled to if the member was not retired or separated.

2. Co-sponsored H.R. 1110 amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

3. Co-sponsored H. Res. 111 establishing a Select POW and MIA Affairs Committee.

4. Co-sponsored H.J. Res. 67 supporting a base defense budget that at the very minimum matches four percent of gross domestic product.

5. Co-sponsored H. Res. 784 recognizing and honoring, in community post offices, the service of men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces deployed overseas.

6. Co-sponsored H.R. 1808 designating the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, GA, as the 'Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.'

7. Supported and spoke in favor of this bill S. 1396 to authorize a major medical facility project to modernize inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill as well as any future bills that will give veterans the kind of health care they deserve.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1396.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1145

#### OFFICER JEREMY TODD CHARRON POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1896) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, as the "Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 1896

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. OFFICER JEREMY TODD CHARRON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, shall be known and designated as the "Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the Government Reform Committee, I join my colleague in the consideration of Senate 1896, legislation naming a postal facility in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, after the late Officer Jeremy Todd Charron. This measure was sponsored by Senator JOHN SUNUNU, Republican of New Hampshire, on July 30, 2007, and unanimously reported by our committee on October 23, 2007.

A member of the New Hampshire Police Department, Officer Charron died in the line of duty, gunned down while questioning two individuals. He passed away on August 24, 1997. Naming a postal facility after Officer Charron is a fitting way for the Hillsborough community to honor his memory.

Madam Speaker, I urge swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Jeremy Todd Charron was a dedicated protector of both his State and country. An intense, goal-oriented young man, he aspired to be a marine since the second grade. After graduating high school, Jeremy fulfilled that dream and joined the Marine Corps, where he proudly served his country for 4 years.

After his enlistment term ended, Jeremy's passion to serve his community and protect others led him to join the Epsom Police Department with the goal of ultimately becoming a State trooper.

Tragically, on August 24, 2007, after attending two fellow officers' funerals, Jeremy was gunned down while questioning two suspicious individuals. Despite his fatal wounds, Jeremy fought back. He returned fire until he collapsed, forcing his killers to flee and steal a nearby truck that was identified by police and ultimately led to their capture.

Leadership was a trait of Jeremy's throughout his short life, whether on the soccer field or as high school class president. He was also known as someone who would defend those who were unable to defend themselves.

Jeremy Charron proved his dedication to honorably serving others, both in the military and as a law enforcement officer who ultimately sacrificed himself in order to keep his community safe.

On this, the 10th anniversary of the death of Jeremy, it would be fitting to name the Hillsborough, New Hampshire, postal facility in his honor. So I join my colleague from Illinois in asking all Members to support the naming of this post office to honor this American hero.

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of S. 1896, which would designate the U.S. Post Office located at Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, as the "Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office." Officer Charron, "who died at the young age of 24, served the people of New Hampshire admirably, and this bill would be a fitting tribute to his courage and sacrifice to the Granite State.

Jeremy was a graduate of Hillsborough-Deering High School, where he was elected to be the president of his senior class. After graduating high school, he served in the United States Marine Corps from 1992 to 1996 and went on to attend the New Hampshire Police Academy.

Six weeks after graduating from the academy, in the early morning of August 24, 1997, Officer Charron noticed a suspicious car parked in Webster Park in Epsom. When the two people inside stepped out of the car, Officer Charron was fired upon three times, with one round entering his unprotected left side.

Although mortally wounded, Officer Charron was able to return fire. He struck the vehicle several times even as the car fled from the scene before succumbing to his wounds. The

suspects were later captured by local law enforcement, and the gunman later pled guilty to capital murder and was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

Officer Charron is survived by his parents, Robert and Frances, his two brothers; Robert and Andrew, and his two sisters; Amanda and Bethany.

Madam Speaker, every day police officers throughout New Hampshire and the nation don their uniforms and serve with honor and courage. I urge my colleagues to support S. 1896 today to help ensure that we don't forget the sacrifice made by this brave young man, a hero in New Hampshire and a true American hero.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1896.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on the morning of December 18, 2007. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following bills: rollcall 1174, rollcall 1175, rollcall 1176, and rollcall 1177.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2764, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008 (CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008) AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. Res. 72, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. WELCH of Vermont, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-498) on the resolution (H. Res. 893) providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 72) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3996, TAX INCREASE PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-499) on the resolution (H. Res. 894) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3996) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 876 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 876

*Resolved*, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on or before the legislative day of December 19, 2007, providing for consideration or disposition of any of the following measures:

- (1) A bill relating to the Children's Health Insurance Program, or an amendment thereto.
- (2) A bill relating to Medicare, or an amendment thereto.
- (3) A bill relating to the alternative minimum tax, or an amendment thereto.
- (4) A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, or an amendment thereto.
- (5) The bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, or an amendment thereto.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Vermont is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 876 waives a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII.

That rule, as you know, requires a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee. This will allow for the same-day consideration, today, of any resolution reported on or before the legislative day of December 19, 2007. It provides for the consideration or disposition of, one, a bill relating to the Children's Health Insurance Program and a bill relating to Medicare, something that at this point is moot in view of earlier proceedings today. But it also has an application on a bill relating to the alternative minimum tax; a joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2008, the so-called CR; and the bill, H.R. 2764, making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, the so-called omnibus appropriations bill.

With passage of this rule, it allows the House to move one step closer to passing this omnibus appropriations bill that will fund the government outside of the Department of Defense. That, of course, we have already completed our work on and it has been signed into law by the President. And it will provide for funding for the entire fiscal year of 2008. It will also take us one step forward towards considering and passing a patch for the alternative minimum tax, which will affect, unnecessarily and unwisely, 23 million American families. They would be subject to paying a tax that was never intended for middle-class working families.

All of these bills, obviously, are crucially important pieces of legislation that Congress must act on before we go home, and we owe it, obviously, to the American people to get this work done.

The omnibus bill is going to reject enormous cuts that had been proposed by the President in his draft budget, cuts to essential domestic priorities such as health care, education, law enforcement, homeland security, highway infrastructure, and renewable energy programs. That omnibus bill instead does invest in crucial domestic priorities: medical research to study diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, Parkinson's, and diabetes; health care access, including programs like the Community Health Centers that provide more access to health care to underinsured Americans. Small rural hospitals will be helped. Special education, teacher quality grants, afterschool programs, and Head Start; Pell Grants and other student aid programs; technical training at high schools and community colleges; State and local law enforcement for communities across the country; Homeland Security grants to help fight in the war on terror. This meets the guaranteed levels for higher infrastructure and adds funding to our Nation's bridges. It also provides funding for solar energy, wind energy, biofuels and energy efficiency with a careful blend of new scientific investments and conservation efforts.